

unfairly burden one group of citizens in carrying out its constitutional functions. By not providing for just compensation, DPA allows the executive to unfairly burden one group of citizens for costs that the Constitution requires be shared among the entire population.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the Defense Production Act gives the executives unchecked power to meddle in the economy, flying in the face of the original constitutional structure and endangering the very liberty it claims to protect. Therefore, I must oppose this bill.

#### COMMEMORATING NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 15, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize October 15 as the first ever National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. On this day, in over 100 cities throughout the United States, Latino leadership will sponsor a variety of activities raising awareness of the state of AIDS among Latinos.

For the past twenty years, AIDS has posed a formidable threat to Latino communities and families. As of December 2001, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates there have been 149,742 cumulative Latino AIDS cases in the United States. Latinos in the United States have been disproportionately affected by the AIDS epidemic. Although Latinos comprise 14 percent of the population in the United States, they account for 20 percent of all those living with AIDS. Furthermore, Latinos are over represented in the number of new HIV infections and AIDS cases. Two groups in particular, Latinas and Latino youth, have been acutely affected. The rate of Latinas with AIDS as a proportion of all Latino AIDS cases has climbed from 15 percent in 1990 to 23 percent in 2000. Latino teens make up 15 percent of the national teenage population but account for 21 percent of new AIDS cases.

In Los Angeles County, an estimated 52,000 men, women, and children are living with AIDS. In 2000, Latinos comprised 41.8 percent of AIDS cases LA County. A rather heartbreaking reality is that in Los Angeles, nearly half of all newborns with HIV are Latino. And as of December 31, 2001, in my community of the San Gabriel Valley, there are 1,121 people living with AIDS.

As the nation's largest and fastest growing ethnic minority group in the United States, addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS in the Latino community takes on an even greater significance in the overall effort to improve our nation's health. National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is a time for our nation to recognize the needs of communities of color and embark on a more proactive fight against AIDS. We must do more than just talk about AIDS. We need to put real action behind our words and good intentions, particularly by adequately funding programs like the Minority AIDS Initiative and increasing emphasis on disease prevention.

These are starting statistics and we must remember that behind these statistics are human faces and human lives, those of our sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, and

our colleagues and friends. On this first National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, I ask that we remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS, show compassion toward and support for those currently living with the disease, and pray for all families and communities whose lives have been touched in some way.

#### UNIVERSAL 4-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN TO D.C. AND NATION-WIDE

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 15, 2003*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today the Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2003 (Universal Pre-K) to begin the process of providing universal, public school pre-kindergarten education for every child, regardless of income. The bill is meant to fill the gaping hole in the President's No Child Left Behind law, which requires elementary and secondary school children to meet more rigorous standards while ignoring the preschool years which can best prepare them to do so. My bill would provide a breakthrough in elementary school education by taking a step at the federal level to provide initial funding and, using such funding, to encourage school districts themselves to add a grade to elementary schooling at age four as an option for every child.

The Universal Pre-K Act responds both to the needs of parents for educational childcare and to the new science showing that a child's brain development, which sets the stage for lifelong learning, begins much earlier than previously believed. However, parents who need child care for their pre-K age children are rarely able to afford the stimulating educational environment necessary to ensure optimal brain development. Universal Pre-K would be a part of school systems, adding a new grade for 4-year-olds similar to 5-year-old kindergarten programs now routinely available in the United States. The bill would eliminate some of the major shortcomings of the uneven commercial day care now available and would assure qualified teachers and safe facilities.

Because of decades of refusal by Congress to approve the large sums necessary for universal health coverage, the Universal Pre-K Act encourages school districts across the United States to apply to the Department of Education for grants to establish 4-year-old kindergartens. Grants funded under Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) would be available to school systems which agree in turn to use the experience acquired with the federal funding provided by my bill to then move forward, where possible, to phase in pre-kindergartens for all children in the school district in regular classrooms with teachers equivalent to those in other grades as part of their annual school district budgets.

The success of high quality Head Start and other pre-kindergarten programs combined with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in the early years should mandate the expansion of early childhood education for all of our children. Traditionally, early learning programs have been available only to the affluent and to lower income families in programs such as Head

Start. The goal of the Universal Pre-K Act is to bring the benefits of educational pre-K within reach of the great majority of American working poor, lower middle class, and middle class families, most of whom have been left out.

In a letter to Congress opposing private school vouchers, City Council Member Kathy Patterson suggested that instead of vouchers, Congress should fund a number of unfunded D.C. public school priorities, including Pre-K education for all 4-year-old children. She said that although universal 4-year-old Pre-K was a top D.C. priority, the city has been able to provide this schooling to only half of its children from local tax revenue.

Compare the cost of day care, most of it offered today with an inadequate educational emphasis, at an average cost of \$6,171 per year to the cost of in-state tuition at the University of Virginia, which costs \$6,150 per year. Yet, more than 60 percent of mothers with children under age six work. That proportion is rapidly increasing as more mothers enter the labor force, including mothers leaving welfare, who also have no long term access to child care.

Considering the staggering cost of daycare, the inaccessibility of early education, and the opportunity earlier education offers to improve a child's chances in life, four-year-old kindergarten is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

#### TRIBUTE TO MILDRED COLEMAN HOLLOWAY

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 15, 2003*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a Texas leader in civil rights, who after 91 years, passed on Friday. Mildred Coleman Holloway.

Throughout her career, Mildred was a trailblazer among African-American women who fought tirelessly for equal rights in an era when blacks were still required to pay a poll tax to vote.

Originally from Waco, Texas, Mildred attended Samuel Huston College, which later merged to become Huston-Tillotson College. For more than 40 years, Mildred was a Democratic Party icon in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, this great leader spent much of her time in Austin fighting for equal opportunity for all people.

She was instrumental in the founding of three politically powerful groups in Austin and the state of Texas, the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, Black Austin Democrats, and the United Political Organization.

Mildred Coleman Holloway was a trailblazer and champion of minority rights in Texas. She was not just a leader in Texas politics but an inspiration to all of us in the Texas delegation. I am certainly proud to have known her and learned from her example.

I will miss her caring spirit. The people of Texas and her friends and colleagues in Austin and throughout Texas will miss her. Although she is no longer with us, Mildred Holloway will fondly be remembered for her courage, determination, humility, and devotion to public service.